

STONE WALLS

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Summer 1980



On looking back....

When a people, nation, state or a small town look back on their heritage things happen. As a new resident I'm glad to be included in this. We are looking at our history, our geneology, our values. We'll laugh at ourselves, think about what made us as we are, ask what if, and are grateful for what was.

Montgomery is two hundred years old this summer. The six hundred plus old and new residents are celebrating.

Natalie Birrell

STONE WALLS

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Washington His
Society

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*Ancient Landmarks of Montgomery, Massachusetts

by Lewis B. Allyn

An address delivered at Old Home Day, September 4, 1920.

Trading houses were established by Connecticut settlers in 1639-40 in the Little River district of Westfield, then known as Woronoak. Twenty-three years later land in the Pochassic district of Westfield was taken up and operated as farming land by Major Humphrey Atherton and Captain Roger Clapp.

In 1669 Woronoak, formerly called "Streamfield", was incorporated as the town of Westfield. Up to this time only about two-thirds of the land between Pine Hill and the rivers had been purchased from the Indians, until, on June 3rd, several acres of land west of Elm Street were purchased for "40 pounds from Alquat, the Indian Sachem of Woronoak and Pochassick".

On December 1, 1737, about 6000 acres of land comprising most of Montgomery and a part of Russell was granted to Westfield by the General Court. This was called the "New Addition" and records state it was valued as a place "abounding in excellent building stone", and for that reason was sought for by the inhabitants.

Soon after the close of the French and Indian Wars it became safe for people to leave their well-protected settlements in the larger towns, which, according to the

ideas of the people, were becoming over-crowded. The families were large and new land was desired to afford the necessary maintenance. After the winter snows had nearly disappeared in the spring of 1767, Ephraim Avery and his wife Susanna and their family made their slow way into the hill regions through Pochassic by the farms of Atherton and Clapp, up through the lower reservoir road, so-called, to what is now known as Pitcher Street, and built their log cabin on the high land to the west of the present house of Charles B. Warren, in sight of the heights of Mt. Tekoa.

Ephraim's sons were William, Abner, Samuel, Rainsford, and Ephraim, Jr. Three of his grandsons were personally known to most of us as Henry Avery of Westfield, and Elisha and George Avery, life-long residents of this town. (Montgomery).

We who enjoy the comforts of the twentieth century civilization may well pause to reflect upon the zeal, patience., and intrepid courage of our forefathers who stripped these rocky fields of their primeval forest. Stern need of cleared land for their crops and pastures forced them to burn millions of feet of choice timber. Since there were no mills, they de-



Montgomery Center

Drawing by Natalie Birrell

pended upon the split slab for their boards or labouriously cut them out with a whip saw. The first saw mill in town was probably built about 1800 on the brook in the hollow near the Sand Knoll Cemetery.

In traveling over the fields, forest and pastures of Montgomery, one views with astonishment the amount of labor expended in clearing the land and building hundreds of miles of stone wall. It is estimated that there are over one hundred twenty-five old cellar holes, each of which doubtless represents the homes of a former settler. These cellar-places, mute testimonials of former industry and community life, are particularly numerous in the Northern and South-western parts of the town settled by pioneers from Norwich, Huntington, and Northampton. The Pitcher Street district, so called from Elijah Pitcher who located there in 1767 or 1768, contains

some twenty or more remains of these old homesites. These were, for the most part, settlements made by people from Westfield, Springfield, and Connecticut.

Even today, the name of the original settler clings to the locality in which he built his home. A few examples will suffice as illustration. Many others will doubtless occur to you.

THE FULLER ROAD AND FULLER PLACE: Probably so-called from the original home of Joseph and Priscilla Fuller in 1799. This road runs south and west dividing the farm of Elbert Chapman, formerly known as the Gilbert or Peter Squire Place.

THE BRANT OR TRACEY BRANT PLACE: The original site of the home of John and Hannah Brant in 1784 and later of their son Tracey. The old location can be seen today to the south and west of the

Elisha Clark farm, and even bits of charcoal from the old brick oven.

THE KING PLACE: Lying to the west and south of the house of Myron Avery—probably the site of the home of Gamaliel and Priscilla King in 1794.

WHITMAN HILL: Near the site of the house of Dan and Cynthia Whitman about 1700. Well within the memory of the writer stood the Whitman barn with its massive framed timbers.

HATCH OR BRACE HILL: At the top of the hill may be found the cellar of the house of Moses and Lucy Hatch in 1797, and later of Chester and Clarissa Brace in 1819.

It is supposed that hunting parties, from what is now known as Westfield, first roamed these hills in quest of game or purposes of exploration. Finding land which promised good returns on cultivation, they reported the same to the township from whence they came.

The inhabitants never suffered from Indian attacks since the incorporation was effected, after the defeat of the Indians and French in the wars of 1756-63.

The Indians who roamed and hunted in these hills were Algonquins of the tribe of Woronoak whose chief, Alquat, has already been alluded to. It is probable that they were not very numerous for Francis Parkman says: "An epidemic has swept them off by the thousands—fear had driven them eastward: for the Iroquois pursued them with an inveterate enmity. Some paid yearly tribute to their tyrants, while others were still subject to their inroads, flying in terror at the sound of the Mohawk war-cry. The Indian population thinned rapidly. Northern New Hampshire, the whole of Vermont and Western Massachusetts had no Indian tenants but the roving hunter or prowling warrior".

Shortly after the settlement by Ephraim Avery, came Sylvester Squire. Two of his grandsons were familiar characters of this

town--James and William. Several of Sylvester Squire's direct descendants are present at this gathering.

In the same year came Oliver Clark. His sons were Oliver, Jr., James, Hawley, Simon, Ferris, Elijah and Elisha, and two daughters, Ruth and Olive. Oliver, Jr. had five sons: Nelson, Hawley, Elisha, Flavius, and Almon. Most of these, particularly Elisha, were known to the majority of the people here. If I am not mistaken, Nelson Clark was once postmaster.

With the settlement thus permanently established by sturdy New Englanders largely from the Eastern and Southern colonies, it is not surprising that the liberty-loving people should petition the General Court for an act of incorporation. This was accordingly granted in 1780, and the town named in honor of General Richard Montgomery who had fallen before the walls of Quebec five years before. It is said that there was practically no celebration or demonstration at the time of incorporation, the settlers being far too busy with their daily tasks to relax even for this important occasion.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Zadock Bosworth on Pitcher Street on December 14th of the same year, sixteen days after the incorporation, at which time the necessary officers were chosen and provisions made for the support of public schools. The first board of selectmen consisted of Oliver Clark, Abial Squire, and Elijah Pitcher. On February 25, 1792, a part of Montgomery was included in the new town of Russell, and ten days later parts of Norwich and Southampton were annexed to Montgomery.

It seems of particular interest at this time to introduce a brief tabulation of the pioneer settlers of this town. The names in about one-third of the instances persist to this day.

The family name is recorded, together with the date of settlement, the number of

members to 1840, and, so far as possible, the section from whence they originally came.

	FAMILY	DATE	NUMBER	SOURCE
Zadock and Lucy	Allyn	1767	33	Groton, Conn.
Ephraim-Susanna	Avery	1767	49	Westfield
Daniel-Rebecca	Barrett	1784	13	Virginia
Harras-Irena	Bartholomew	1810	14	Springfield
Zadock-Deborah	Bosworth	1784	33	Southampton
John-Hannah	Brant	1783	16	Hartford or Springfield
Isaac-Mary	Camp	1830	9	Norwich
Nelson-Waity	Chapman	1796	50	Groton, Conn.
Phineas-Lucretia	Clapp	1799	10	Southampton
James-Ruth	Clark	1787	52	Simsbury, Conn.
Thomas-Thankful	Crow	1786	19	Northampton
John-Susannah	French	1767	18	Westfield
George-Polly	Gorham	1781	21	Norwich
Moses-Lucy	Hatch	1797	9	England
Jonathan-Hannah	Herrick	1793	27	Westfield
Amos-Deborah	Kagwin or Keigwin	1773	17	Chester
Gamaliel-Priscilla	King	1795	13	Murrayfield
Reuben-Mary	Knapp	1784	13	Westfield
Truman-Olive	Mallory	1793	12	Westfield
Moses-Mary	Maynard	1793	10	Norwich
Joel-Martha	Moor or Moore	1794	79	Southampton
Aaron-Lydia	Parks	1791	42	Southampton and Westfield
Abiel-Eunice	Pettis or Pettes	1782		Norwich
Martin-Ruth	Root	1781	10	Westfield
Asa-Mary	Shirtlef	1792	20	Bolton, Conn.
Sylvester-Mary	Squire	1781	19	Connecticut
John-Elizabeth	Tiffany	1782	14	Norwich
Ebenezer-Zurviah	Tillotson	1802	12	Springfield
James-Thankful	Wheeler	1794	29	New London
Charles-Eunice	Wright	1797	38	Southampton
Amos-Wealthy	Frisbee	1797	13	Springfield

The church, then a state institution, was established and an appropriation of "six pounds was made for the support of preaching in this town". It is probable that the services were held in private dwellings and by such ministers as could be obtained. In 1783, however, the town directed a committee to make a contract with Rev. John Ballantine to preach twenty Sabbaths at \$2.00 a Sabbath. It is thought by some that the "Mr. Ballantine" referred to in the records was one of the sons of the Rev. John Ballantine, pastor of the First Congregational Church at Westfield.

The records indicate that the cost of living in Montgomery in those days was not excessive, for it is recorded that in the summer of 1790, "Zadock Bosworth victualled and attended the Rev. John Ballantine". For that service, Mr. Bosworth charged but one shilling (about 20 cents) per day.

In 1788 it was resolved to build a meeting house, "as near the center of the town as possible", and the committee appointed reported that they had "chosen a spot on hill near Truman Mallory's". Following this report arose a heated discussion over the site of the meeting house. Some wanted it located on what is now known as Brace Hill, others wanted it on Pitcher Street, still others chose a place near the present site of Mrs. Merton Camp, others somewhere else. The result was that half a dozen factions were clamoring for as many different locations. As time passed, the conflicting elements grew more inharmonious, and nothing could be done about building a church. No agreement could be reached as touching the place where it should stand. Thus for nine years the fruitless controversy was carried on. When the dispute wore itself out, the church was built near the center of the town in 1797. This building was succeeded by the present structure across the way in 1848.

Apparently the early settlers of the town were disposed to be fair with reference to religious preference, for at the town meeting in 1789, it was voted to select a committee "for the obtaining of preaching, and that the committee be instructed to obtain a preacher of the Orthodox order and one of the Baptist persuasion for alternate Sundays".

In 1801 the Rev. Seth Noble, son of Thomas Noble of Westfield, was ordained pastor. It is recorded that Mr. Noble "continued on" until 1806, when he was dismissed. He was not a liberally educated man, and was no doubt a thorn in the flesh of many of the good citizens of this town. He was obstinate, severe, and had a peculiar way of obtaining his own aims. He was excessively fond of the old tune of "Bangor", and insisted on the congregation singing it at nearly every service. This may have been one of the reasons why he was dismissed. At any rate, after leaving Montgomery he became a preacher in Maine, and was sent to Boston by the officers of the town to present to the General Court a petition for the incorporation of the territory as a town under the name of "Sunfield". Mr. Noble erased the word "SUNFIELD" and substituted that of "BANGOR", and obtained the passage of the Act, and so perpetuated the name of his favorite tune, although it is quite likely that his parishioners were highly indignant at the results. It is interesting to know that a former resident of this town was responsible for the naming of one of the largest cities in the State of Maine.

Methodism gained a foothold here about 1830, and in 1849 the present church was erected.

It will be noted that Montgomery was incorporated during the stormiest period of the Revolutionary War, and with sterling patriotism one of the first measures passed in town meeting was for the enlistment of men for the army. A bounty of

eight shillings per man was offered.

Richard Falley, one of the selectmen with Sylvester Squire and Aaron Parks in 1784, manufactured guns in his shop on the southeastern slope of Mt. Tekoa on the farm recently owned by the artist, Joseph LeValley. Falley's guns were exceedingly serviceable, well finished, and were much sought after by the continental army. With pardonable pride our people can assert that Montgomery did her part in furnishing firearms for the patriots as well as men to use them.

Montgomery responded and furnished ably to the call for volunteers for the war of the Rebellion and furnished twenty-five men, as follows:

Andrew Gorham	Erskin Waite
George Kelso	John A. Gorham
Joseph Sheldon	Daniel A. Moore
Elihu Lloyd	Henry Pettis
Henry Whitman	Charles Whitman
Henry Brant	Gilson Avery
William Howes	Alfred Howes
Fitzhugh Hoag	Timothy Hoag
Edward Pettis	Almon H. Clark
Henry O. Clark	Charles N. Clark
Anson D. Clapp	Charles D. Barnes
Asa Barnes	James Baker
Charles Ballou	

While Montgomery did her share in the war of the Revolution, the town did not take kindly to the War of 1812. It is no secret that this was looked upon with great disfavor by many of the towns and states. History tells us that the War of 1812 never should have occurred, and it is one of our national mistakes. We might just as well have arbitrated with England as to have fought her. The clear-headed citizens of the town were opposed to the war, and accordingly, by vote, Edward Taylor was sent to represent the town at the antiwar convention in Northampton.

The town has been remarkably free from criminal records, there being recorded only three in one hundred and forty years

of its incorporation: the killing of a negro in the southeastern part of the town, the tragic death of Mrs. Betsey Wright (an aged town pauper) in 1889, and the robbery of the funds of Elisha and George Avery in 1904.

The geographical location and the natural configuration of the town renders it principally valuable for agricultural pursuits. There have been no large manufacturing industries. Several water mills, including grist mills, saw mills, and a whip factory from time to time have been established at convenient point, along the Moose Meadow Brook, which is now the feeder of the upper reservoir of the Westfield water system.

At least five brandy distilleries were operated. One near the house of Charles N. Manley (formerly known as the Tyler Allyn Place), one at the foot of Brace Hill, one near the old Howes Place, one on the northern shore of the Westfield upper reservoir, and one near the home of Hugh Kelso. In spite of this liberal supply of "hard stuff", there seem to have been no violent out-breaks. The one exception appears to be the case of Daniel Whitman, whose death is recorded as due to "Excessive Drinking of Arden Spirits".

The lack of large streams for power and the difficulties of transportation of raw and finished products, has undoubtedly reacted unfavorably on the town's industrial development. But what is even better than rapidly whirring factory wheels is the character of a town's inhabitants.

For over a century Montgomery has been known for the integrity and worth of its citizens, and its positions of trust have been filled by men of action and public spirit. While poor in money, they were rich in enterprise, and these liberty-loving ancestors of ours have left an example of faith and industry which we should all do well to emulate.

“Blowing in the Wind” -

News About Montgomery

by Barbara McCorkindale

The small town of Montgomery is blessed with a large amount of community spirit. Although the residents are widely scattered over a wooded and hilly countryside, once every month they are drawn together by the magic of communication. At that time each and every household in town is the recipient of a newspaper, the MOUNTAIN BREEZE, written, mimeographed, and distributed by a group of local people. The MOUNTAIN BREEZE is a labor of love, a non-profit venture which is the work of the Montgomery Civic Association. The current publication has been in print monthly since May 1977, but the original journal, also named MOUNTAIN BREEZE, came into existence through the efforts of a Mrs. Nelson Gaunt who, with a group of ladies, gathered at her home on Jourdon Road,

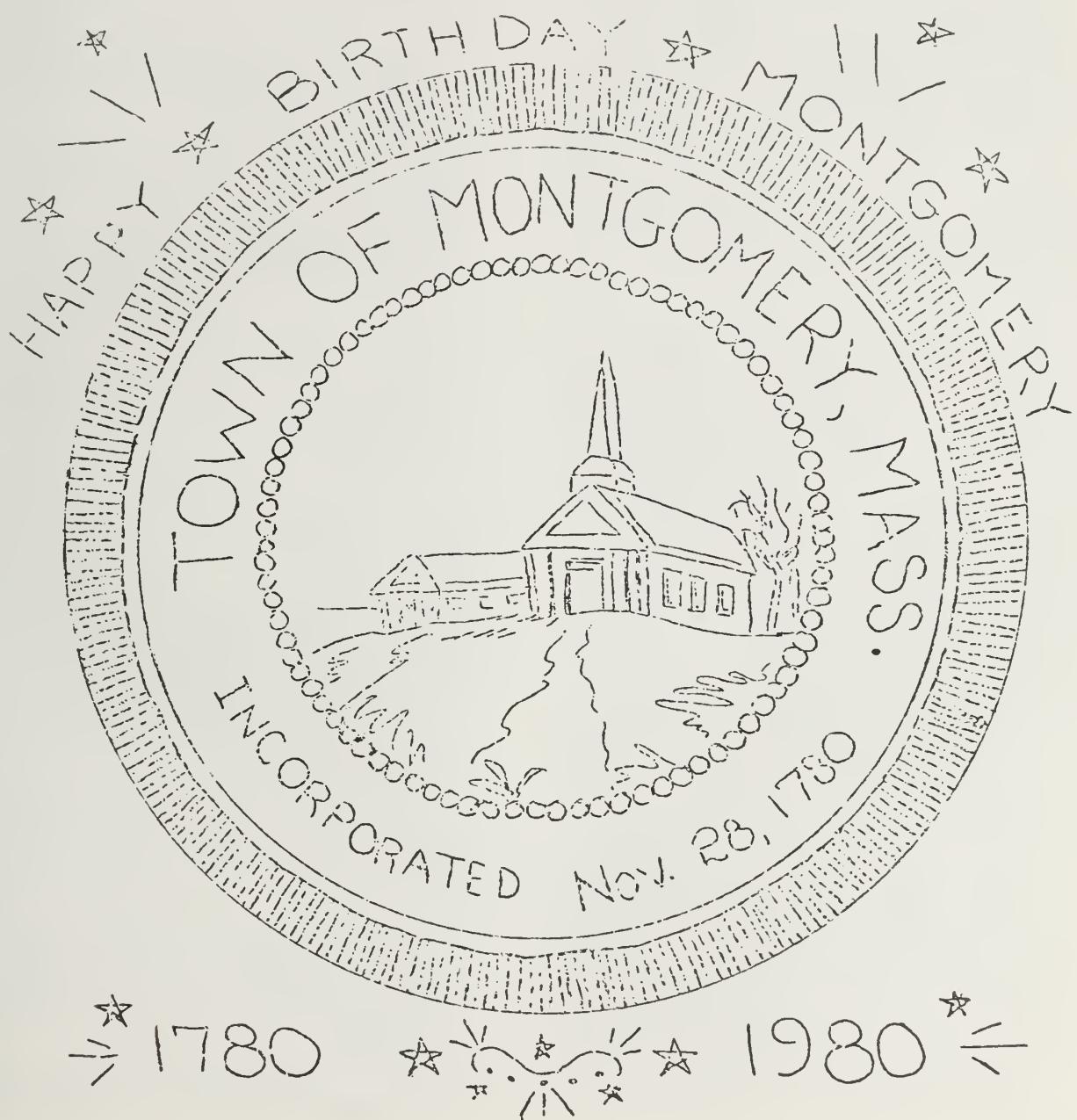
printed the first copy in the early fall of 1950. This publication continued for approximately three years; Mrs. Gaunt then moved out of town and the venture came to a halt.

The new MOUNTAIN BREEZE, which employs basically the same format as its predecessor, is alive and well, stirring up the winds which carry the news to Montgomery residents, keeping them abreast of important regional as well as local happenings. The impetus to revive this venture came from the frustration of being unable to get Montgomery news items printed in the newspapers of neighboring communities. If a person had business to transact with the Town Selectmen, for example, or with the Board of Assessors, it was necessary for him to know the date and time of their next meeting. Today the MOUNTAIN

MOUNTAIN BREEZE

MONTGOMERY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

VOL. 2 JANUARY 1980



BREEZE carries as a regular feature a complete calendar of town events each month, including everything from Selectmen's meetings to softball games and Thimble Club demonstrations.

This small paper does not limit itself to local activities; often it takes a broader view. The March, 1980, issue reminds its readers of the impending national census, and the January, 1980 edition explains and summarizes the pay raise law of the Massachusetts Legislature while asking for signatures on a petition to repeal this law. At the time of the Massachusetts state elections, the paper listed the names of candidates on the ballot.

Many items are of a very practical nature and must surely be received with gratitude by those whom they concern. The January, 1980, issue lists under "Important Reminders" the following:

- the SOCIAL SECURITY CONTACT STATION in Westfield, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 AM-1 PM, JFK Memorial Apts on Kasper Dr. Disability claims by Appointment only, 785-1828
- the LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY - 582-4034 for appointment
- the SENIOR TRANSPORTATION Monday or Thursday to Westfield. Appointments must be made the day before. Call Wes Monat at 862-3895
- the MEALS FOR THE ELDERLY at the Huntington Town Hall every week day between 11:45 and noon. Cost is 75¢ and reservations must be made one day in advance - 667-3383.
- the COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN, WESTFIELD AREA. 91 E Mt Road at the Western Mass. Hospital complex next to the E Mt Pre-School. Contact them for all activities for children, not just when you need help. But, by all means call them if you do need help. Phone 562-5235.

The MOUNTAIN BREEZE also acts as a listing of available businesses in the area. Here is a sampling of the products and services found in various issues:

SLATE PAINTINGS - made to order - call Judy at 862-3647. Great for weddings, house warmings, Christmas, etc.

NEED A PLUMBER? Call Peter DeBruyn, Master Plumber, at 527-6585.

DOLLS - Made to order - china head, soft sculpture, baby, call for more information - Linda Stipek at 862-3833.

PIANO AND ORGAN INSTRUCTION in Pop and Classical music; harmony and theory lessons for adult and children; beginners through advanced. for appointments call Winnie Dame at 667-3381.

MONTGOMERY CHICKENS - made to order - use as doorstops, kitchen utensil or pencil caddy. Call Judy Crean at 862-3647.

NEED SOME WOOD CUT UP OR CUT DOWN? Call Scott Osden at 862-3800. Has own transportation (truck).

The November, 1978, issue contained this intriguing ad:

WANTED: One pound COFFEE CANS or equal, for marking off cemetery plots. For pick-up, call 4421, 4414, 4492, 3339, 3331, 3800, 3647, 4586, or any member of the Mt. Breeze staff.

We were, of course, delighted to find this one:

"STONE WALLS" Hilltown publication available by calling Karen Kidrick 862-3849 or Nancy Madru 862-3205.

Teenagers get into the act in the MOUN-

TAIN BREEZE! Under a heading, "HIRE-A-TEEN", we find the following:

KEN GORE - age 12 - lawnmowing, babysitting (age 3 and up); and car washing. Call 862-3373.

READY, WILLING - to do odd jobs and yard work. Reliable 16 yr old eager to earn extra money. Call Jim MAHAR at 862-4468.

THE CAMPBELL KIDS - 862-4528. Odd jobs. Pay by the hour or by the job.

GLEN STANISEWSKI - 862-3615. Handmade wet flies for sale.

JEFF CURTIN - 862-4492. Odd jobs, raking, wood stacking, eager and reliable.

BRUCE STIPEK - 862-3883. Odd jobs, yard work, babysitting; age 15 - dependable, wood stacking, windows, even housework.

JOHN VERNON AND LITTLE BROTHER - 862-4091. Lawnmowing and the like.

As might be expected in a small town journal, the MOUNTAIN BREEZE also carries items of a personal nature which are of interest to the community. A promotion at work, the granting of a college scholarship, the birth of a child, the advent of a new resident in town, all are duly noted and commended. The illness or the death of a neighbor or a member of his family brings a message of condolence. A regular feature is a list of Montgomery residents whose birthdays fall within the month of the current issue. It is to be noted that the editors tactfully omit the ages of the celebrants!

The MOUNTAIN BREEZE is made attractive through the artistic ability of Judy Crean whose lively drawings are scattered through its pages. She creates a cover design for each issue in harmony

with the events of the month which it depicts. One of her appealing covers appears on the next page.

The staff of MOUNTAIN BREEZE, as noted in the latest issue at hand as of this writing (March, 1980) consists of the following:

Joan Hebert	Sharon White
Laura Covel	Marion McGuinness
Patty Little	Doris Osden
Frona Camp	Judy Crean
Nancy Curtin	Jack Crean
Terri Farina	Chris Brown

Congratulations, MOUNTAIN BREEZERS! May you continue to keep your messages "blowin' in the wind" for many years to come.

Information for this article was supplied by Frona Camp, a resident of Montgomery who was transplanted to that town forty-two years ago from Nova Scotia. Mrs. Camp has been one of Montgomery's most active citizens, participating wholeheartedly in community organizations and clubs and offering her services generously through the years. She has been President of the Montgomery Thimble Club, Sunday School Superintendent of the Montgomery Community Church, a Den Mother and a Cub Scout Leader in addition to her multiple services to the 4-H Club for which she was recently honored with a Meritorious Service Award for her forty-one years of work with the Hampden County 4-Hers. While in this Club, she served as a leader in activities such as woodworking, child care, home decorating, gardening, conservation and canning. For several years she also taught canning during the summer to interested local people at the former junior high school on Broad Street in Westfield. She is today a member of the Montgomery Civic Association which sponsors the MOUNTAIN BREEZE.

A Visit With Bill Hall

by Barbara McCorkindale

The first day of spring in 1980 was a day of sunshine and gentle breezes. Bill Hall, his friendly dogs at his side, welcomed his visitor in the sunny dooryard of his old farmhouse. Having been primed for an interview with one of Montgomery's oldest residents, his guest was somewhat taken aback at first sight of Bill, whose youthful step, erect carriage, and well-groomed appearance belie his eighty-five years. A few minutes of conversation with him quickly dispelled any notions of an old gentleman in his dotage; Bill is alert and well-informed on world and national subjects as well as on local ones. He is one of those older people whose minds retain incidents of the past with great clarity and with whom it is a genuine pleasure to reminisce on the past and to ponder the future.

The interview took place in the sitting room where the efforts of a quartz heater were abetted by the sunlight streaming through white curtains. The room had an air of comfort and friendliness enhanced by the pungent smell of cooking apple sauce which drifted in from the kitchen. Bill remarked that a younger person would probably want to do some remodeling of this house, but that it suited him. The house will have its two-hundredth birthday in 1999, he said, and it has been in his family for one hundred and twenty-five years, at least. Both he and his mother before him were born in the pleasant old homestead.

Bill Hall has been an outdoorsman all his life, spending a great deal of time cutting wood. Unlike many people who moan the "good old days", he welcomes modern inventions. "I love a chain saw,

every minute of it," he states, "because I'm getting even with the days when I had nothing but an axe and cross-cut saw."

He has always been an ardent hunter of fox, deer, and coon and still hunts deer every season. Coon hunting has long been a favorite sport with him, and he is pleased to say that he has shot a coon after he was eighty five years of age. As a matter of fact, he confesses that his grandson carefully takes him hunting each year right on or immediately after his birthday, so that he is able to say that he shot a coon when he was eighty-one, when he was eighty-two, and so on. He has owned four good coon dogs, a remarkable record. He says, "If you have one good coon hound in a lifetime, you're lucky." It is easy to see why he has had no trouble in training his dogs, by observing the affectionate manner with which he treats his present canine family.



Bill Hall and friend

Photograph provided by Bill Hall

All forms of wild life are not looked on with favor by Bill Hall; he detests rattlesnakes. These deadly creatures have spread from their well-known hang-out on Tekoa Mountain to numerous surrounding areas. He has always taken care to teach the neighboring children to recognize and beware of them, and he became incensed when a Springfield naturalist, having a rattlesnake in captivity, announced through a captioned picture in the newspaper that this was an endangered species and deserved to be treated kindly; he intended to return it to the place where it was found so that it could reproduce in its natural habitat. The people of Montgomery got behind Bill Hall and signed a petition asking that the snake not be released to jeopardize more humans. The debate between Bill and the naturalist became hot and heavy and eventually reached the local papers. It finally was picked up by one of the wire services, and Bill was amazed when he received a letter from his daughter in Georgia enclosing a clipping from the Augusta Herald which told about the altercation and quoted the words of Bill Hall of Montgomery, Massachusetts: Bill still stands his ground on the subject, saying that the rattlesnake may well be an endangered species, but he, for one, will be glad when the last one is dead.

One of Bill Hall's hobbies is the raising of flowers. The gladiolus is his specialty, and he says that every year he raises "just a few hundred." He has never sold one; instead he gives them away to friends and neighbors. The many colors and varieties fascinate him. He says that if he were younger, he would love to work at hybridizing these flowers.

When asked to reminisce about any exciting events that had occurred during his lifetime in Montgomery, Bill stated that this was a quiet town where life went on

peacefully from day to day. Then he chuckled and remarked, "But I've got to tell you my will-o'-the-wisp story." This is a tale from the old days when he was about eleven years old and his brother Roy was four years older. A gang of boys used to get together and the story of the mysterious will-o'-the-wisp was often told. One night Bill and Roy decided to go looking for it, and, surprisingly, they found it. It was in the area of Old Pond, above the present reservoir, where a stream flowed through a cemetery. Suddenly a ball of light, about the size of a lantern, appeared from the direction of the cemetery. It drifted slowly



Rattlesnake killed by Bill Hall

Photograph provided by Bill Hall

towards the boys. Bill was terrified, positive that it was a ghost; the fear was made more intense because of the cemetery. He urged Roy to run, but Roy was adamant about remaining to see what this strange thing was. The will-o'-the wisp- drifted closer and closer as the terrified Bill begged his brother to flee with him, but Roy's curiosity prevailed. Finally, to Bill's relief, the ball of light floated back out of sight into the woods. Of course today Bill realizes that the will-o'-the-wisp is a natural phenomenon found in swampy areas, but at the time he was sure that it was of supernatural origin. He was told this story to friends in recent years, and they have reported a similar sighting, indicating that this strange spectacle is still lurking.

About the only time Bill recalls any real dissension in the town of Montgomery was when the Methodist church ceased to function as a place of worship and was given to the town. Some of the residents wanted to tear out the pews and the balcony in order to make the building into a meeting hall, while others felt that this would be a destructive act, ruining a fine old building. Finally a group of young men took matters into their own hands and went, in the dead of night, into the church, tore out the pews and destroyed them. After further argument, the balcony was removed, also, in a more conservative manner, and the building stands today as a town hall and a meeting place for community activities.

When asked if he thought the town of Montgomery would ever increase in size, Bill replied, "I hope not." He likes the pleasant little community just the way it is.

He cited two good reasons for the fact that the town will probably never get much larger than it is: the city of Westfield owns huge tracts of watershed property in Montgomery which will never be available for construction of dwellings; the new law requiring percolation tests on land before a house can be erected will also preclude much construction, since the soil in this area does not have the required drainage. This is all right with Bill.

Unlike many small town natives who resent the influx of "new people", Bill has only words of praise for those who have moved to Montgomery in the last few decades. Although his opinions are not always those of the newcomers, he feels that in general they are sincere and well-intentioned and that basically he agrees with them on the really important issues. "I have no enemies in the town that I know of" he says.

He is a bit sad, however, that as the years go by, he knows fewer and fewer of the inhabitants of the town.

"I'll tell you what hurts a little," he says. "To go to a town meeting...I don't believe that out of two hundred people there I can name twenty that I know. I have no idea who all the others are...It makes me feel funny...that you're a stranger in your own town."

The chances are that, though he may not know it, he is not as much a stranger as he thinks. Most of those two hundred assembled people probably recognize Bill Hall, life-long resident of Montgomery, thoughtful citizen, and helpful and friendly neighbor.



A Handful of Clippings

Montgomery, February 4, 1918.

The annual town meeting was held Monday, but on account of the severe cold weather and deep snow drifts, only 24 voters were present out of a total registration of 55. It was probably the smallest vote ever cast at the annual town meeting in the history of the town. The result of the meeting in detail follows: Moderator, Myron E. Kelso; Clerk, Walter D. Allyn; Treasurer, David L. Allyn, Selectmen, Walter D. Allyn, Myron B. Avery, Merton E. Camp; overseers of the poor, Andrew J. Hall, D. L. Allyn, W. B. Avery; assessor for three years, M.E. Camp; school committee for three years, D.L. Allyn; auditor, Walter A. Gorham; tax collector, D.L. Allyn; tree warden, C.A. Williams; constables, D.L. Allyn, R. S. Harrick; library trustee for three years, Mrs. W.S. Hall. Appropriations: Schools, \$700; highways and bridges, \$1000; town officers, \$500; contingent, \$40; paupers, \$225; town debt, \$130; interest, \$50; medical inspection, \$20; library, \$15 and one-half of dog fund. Total, \$3030. Liquor license: Yes, 0; no, 16.

Montgomery, September 8, 1923--About 300 persons representing a half-dozen states were present at the fourth annual Old Home Day exercises held in Montgomery today. Dinner was served at Union Hall and at the town hall. The program included community singing led by Howard Smith of Westfield; an address of welcome by Myron E. Kelso, treasurer of the association; invocation by Rev. Charles Chapin of Norwich; duet by Mrs. George Smith and Howard Smith; an original poem on Montgomery by Harold Hawkins of West-

field; readings by Mrs. Evelyn Wyman of Russell; musical selections by the Standard Oil orchestra of Springfield; and "Recollections of Montgomery" by Mrs. John H. Kneil of Westfield. Mrs. Kneil's great-grandfather settled in Montgomery in 1798.

The principal address of the afternoon was given by DeWitt C. DeWolf of Chester. There were remarks and selections by Gus Williams of Montgomery. Games were played and a party composed of younger visitors went to the English Grass cave in the west part of town. Lewis B. Allyn of Westfield was chairman of the program committee.

Westfield, April 21, 1924--Homer H. Kelso, 91, Montgomery's oldest resident, died last night at Noble hospital.

He was born in Montgomery on October 28, 1849, the son of Hugh and Nancy (Pratt) Kelso, and had resided there all his life. Mr. Kelso had been engaged in farming all his life and was known to practically



HOMER H. KELSO

all residents in the Montgomery and Wyben districts.

He prided himself on never having missed an election. He voted for 17 presidents, casting his first ballot for Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. He was a selectman in 1882 and 1883.

He leaves two sons, Charles H. of Wyben and Myron E. of Montgomery; a daughter, Mrs. George Miller of this city; five grand-children and eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 at the Montgomery church. Rev. Irving H. Childs of Huntington will officiate. Burial will be in Montgomery Center cemetery.

Westfield, July 1, 1935---Rural free delivery mail boxes at Montgomery driveways and front yards came into use today for the first time as residents of the hilltown hamlet, second smallest of Hampden county towns, received their mail by carrier at their homes, following the closing of the town's post office yesterday after being in existence for nearly a century.

Paul Elton of this city, rural free delivery carrier from the local post office to Wyben, has been given an extension of his route to cover Montgomery.

Yesterday was a busy day for Mrs. L. Edson Washburn, Montgomery's postmaster, as hundreds of stamp collectors in all parts of the country forwarded letters to be remailed in order to obtain the much-sought "last day" cancellations.

Montgomery, May 29, 1949---The need for a strong America to bulwark commitments designed to establish world peace was accentuated this afternoon in traditional Memorial Day commemorative exercises on the town Common by Lt. Col. Stanley I. Hand of Westover Field.

Legionnaires of the Westfield Post, joined by schoolchildren and townsfolk paid

tribute to the memory of the dead of all wars, and heard the colonel plead for the manifestation of national strength as a deterrent to future global conflicts. Colonel Hand supplemented his address with a recitation of some gratifying results that might be obtained through combined efforts and teamwork, and as an outstanding example he cited the Berlin Airlift, in which he participated.

The new War Memorial, built by residents of the community as a tribute to their heroes of all wars, was dedicated with solemn services. Post 124, American Legion, led by Comdr. David F. McCarthy, joined in the ritual, and a wreath was placed by Wayne Harry Newfield, young son of one of Montgomery's World War II honored dead.

Miss Audrea V. Albro, supervisor of music in the schools, sang the national anthem, and a firing squad from Westover Air Base was in attendance. Following exercises on the Common, hundreds visited the cemeteries where the graves of all veterans were draped with flags.

The Memorial Day committee included William S. Hall, Peter T. Szarek, and Joseph F. O'Donnell.

Montgomery, September 6, 1921---Montgomery held its second annual old-home day celebration today. The morning was given over to informal gatherings for the renewal of old acquaintances; a program on which C.A. Brodeur, principal of the Westfield state normal school, was the chief speaker, occupied the afternoon, and a dance was held in the evening.

R.E. Bosworth, 90, a former resident, now of Southampton, entertained with violin solos. The Bosworth Drum Corps, formed more than a century ago, also made its appearance.

Mr. Brodeur touched the most vital problem of the New England hill village today when he said, in the course of his ad-

dress:--

"Young people of today find it easy to leave the farm for the city. They see more ready money, more pleasures, more opportunities, in the business world. Yet how much we need the men on the farms and the type of manhood they represent! We cannot live without food, and food cannot be raised on city pavements."

Addressing the inhabitants of Montgomery, he said: "I must congratulate you first of all upon your enterprise in maintaining yourselves during all your history with so uniform a degree of excellence.

"You have been a town nearly 141 years, and your first settlers came from Westfield, about 1765. You have never had more than 700 inhabitants, and yet you have borne your part in every demand the country has made upon you from the days when your fathers voted a bounty for men to serve in the Revolution until the present time.

"When men migrate to cities," he said, "they weaken the moral fiber of the country, for they thereby decrease the value of home. There is no comparison possible between life on these hills and life in a city block.

"The migration from country to city carries with it a lack of initiative and makes it necessary to change systems of education to remedy the defect in city schools. We have lost immeasurably by the exodus from the country and we are not sure the new education will be able to devise a way to supply the loss.

"How much we owe to the old towns from which we came! Our first impressions of life, our first lessons in morals and manners, our first district school experiences, we fail to realize the real value of such matters. Every man is a sensitive plate whereon is recorded a sort of composite photograph of all the educational influences about him. These early years in God's open country gave us a running start

in life. Now, in mature years, the old town stretches out her arms and asks our help.

"Let us return as often as we can to these old scenes. The old town needs our help today as never before. The church has a harder time than it once had. The schools are smaller in membership, the social life of today changes rapidly.

"...All through the months of more than 150 years men born on these hills have been leaving Montgomery for other parts of the world. Wherever they have gone, they have left a little bit of Montgomery tradition, a few seeds of sterling vitality to spring into vigor in new scenes and different conditions. Thus has the old town made the world its debtor. Today we string garlands about the places of honored memory and pay our tribute to the town of the past and the Montgomery of today."

The afternoon program was as follows: Invocation, Rev. D.D. Griffin; address of welcome, Myron Kelso; Musical selection, Esten Bosworth; solo, Howard Smith; recitation, Hazel Moore; address, C. A. Brodeur; solo, Beulah Hall; recitation, Earl Heap; duet, Louis Sporbert and Ruth Kelso; remarks, Robert Scott; community singing.

More than 500 people came from out of town.

Montgomery, March 8, 1951--One of the oldest homes in Montgomery was burned to the ground in minutes today when flames, thought to have been started by an over-heated chimney, reduced the four room frame dwelling of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Fortune of Jourdan Road to ashes.

The home, owned by Mr. Walter C. Stober of Montgomery and rented to the Fortune family, was believed to be more than 150 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Fortune and four of their six children, were shopping in Westfield during the morning when a small child in the neighborhood noticed flames coming

from the kitchen. Deputy Chief Ronald Rathay of the Fire Department responded to a call and was at the scene of the fire at 12:20 p.m. Lack of water seriously hindered firemen, who had to drive more than one mile to replenish the 400 gallons poured on the blaze during the last minutes. Additional water was drawn from a small pond in the vicinity.

At 12:35 units of the Westfield fire department, under the direction of Chief John F. Clark, arrived along with apparatus from Huntington, under direction of Chief Albert Smith. By 1 p.m. the home was total destroyed.

Fortune and his family returned home to find the home a pile of rubble. Fortune's other two children were in school at the time of the fire. The family dog died in the blaze.

Montgomery, February 4, 1961--Fire destroyed a large barn containing 22 head of stock and about 60 tons of baled hay on the Fred McQuat farm in Montgomery late Saturday night.

The fire was discovered by Harry Washburn who makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. McQuat.

It was reported that the fire had gained considerable headway when discovered. When the Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department arrived on the scene it was impossible to save the stock or any of the barn's contents.

Westfield firefighters responded with a piece of equipment to assist the Montgomery firemen. Montgomery men stayed at the scene all night. The fire continued to smolder at dusk Sunday night.

The fire was visible to residents in the Greater Springfield area. Several reports were received from Wilbraham and Hampden residents who saw the fire's glow on the horizon to the west of Springfield.

Firemen were hampered in fighting the

Married for Half Century



MR. AND MRS. RALPH COLE

In her handmade wedding gown, Mrs. Ralph Cole with her husband welcomed over 250 guests at their home on Goss Hill, Huntington, on their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Cole were married on June 23, 1909, in the same room where the reception was held. Highlight of the occasion was the presence of Rev. John B. Lewis fo Mill River, who is 91 years of age. Mr. Lewis performed the marriage ceremony 50 years ago. Miss Viva Bates of Maple St. who was a guest at the wedding, had charge of the guest book at the reception.

fire by lack of water. After the supply of water in the engine pumper was exhausted, the firefighters chopped through an ice-covered brook for an additional supply.

Mrs. E. Ross Pease, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McQuat, said Sunday night that among the 22 animals lost were two milk cows. Cause of the fire is unknown, according to Mrs. Pease. McQuat was not at home at the time. He was admitted to Noble Hospital, Westfield, Wednesday following a fall in the barn.

Beautiful Montgomery



Montgomery has always been a town of great scenic beauty. The following excerpt is from an article by an unknown writer published in a small magazine named THE NORTH STAR and dated August, 1890. The magazine describes its function thus; "A Monthly Magazine published in the interest of Westfield, Massachusetts and Surrounding Country." Its cost is noted "5 cents per copy."

For the reader who wishes to check for himself the accuracy of the view here described, the "Captain Hildreth place" is now the "Charles Fox place" on Montgomery Road.

"Onward - upward! If you travel to the good old town of Montgomery, the well-remembered motto of childhood will be put to practice.

"They were hardy people, no doubt, who chose these mountains whereon to plant a town. They were lovers of peace and peaceful surroundings, and they found them.

"And there is much here for the lover of Nature, the lover of rare scenery. Standing on the high knolls which abound, the naked eye may take in a broad expanse. With a good field-glass the panorama is made grander, and on a clear day you get pictures such as have never honored canvas. Take an eastern view. The high point just north of the Captain Hildreth place is most convenient for a survey. Straight north, a dense forest obstructs the view, but the slow sweep of the glass soon reveals the spires and higher buildings of the Hamptons, with their background of noted mountain peaks. Glimpses of other towns are caught, even to the far-away Belcher-

town. In the middle distance, the silvery surface of Hampton Ponds glints in the sunlight. There are broad stretches of plain-land, surrounding these waters, with the barren gray of dried grasses adding variety to the coloring of the picture. In the valley at your feet lies Wyben, that thrifty farming suburb of Westfield. The landscape is checkered with fields of ripening crops, contrasting with the dull gray of hay fields, newly mown.

"A few rods north of the storage reservoir and but a few steps from "Gus" Williams' famous little cottage, you may find a subject worthy of your brush, if artistically inclined. It is the ruin of the mill where the Montgomeryites were wont to gather with their grist and sawing. Viewed at any time, but especially by moonlight, the wall, with its large loop-hole, through which the water flows, makes a strange picture...

"To reach the altitude of Montgomery, you may go by various means of locomotion. You may go a-foot or you may take your wheel. (In either case you may expect to walk). But if you go a-wheel, you have the compensation of coasting back down, and from the time you leave the stepping stone at Captain Hildreth's until your wheel strikes the hill at Wyben post-office, your feet need not touch the pedals, save for the purpose of retarding your flight. And woe to you if the frail vehicle of steel gets beyond your control!"





Chapman Tavern
Montgomery Ma.



Bedford
KING

The Old Tavern

by Alice Clark Coach

RECOLLECTIONS: BY ALICE CLARK COACH, Grand-daughter of Delia and David Allyn.

Some of my fondest childhood recollections are of my visits to my grandmother and grandfather, Delia and David Allyn who lived where the fire station in Montgomery now stands. It was a very large house that in the old days was a tavern.

This white house stood well back from the road on a hill. Reaching down from the house, nearly to the road, was my grandmother's flower garden, bordered by shrubs and enclosed by a white picket fence. In the early days a sign bearing the legend, "Chapman's Inn" swung in front of the house near the road. Travelers journeying over this main highway often stopped here for rest and refreshment - a cooling drink in summer and, in winter, one to chase the chill from the bones and raise one's spirits, as liquor was sold here.

The old kitchen, which was a step up from the vestibule, was then the bar. I used to be fascinated by the small pantry at one side of the kitchen. It was a room within a room. It was in this tiny room that my grandmother never failed to have a special treat for me. It might be her large soft cream cookies shaped like oak leaves, a piece of my favorite pie, or often a piece of delicious blueberry shortcake loaded

with juicy berries and smothered with thick country cream.

After this luscious snack I went in search of Grandma's cats. In a cushioned arm chair beside the old kitchen range I could usually find "Flossie", a very gentle calico cat, the mother of innumerable kittens. Going quietly through Grandfather's room, I was allowed to enter Grandma's special chamber. Here in the largest cushioned rocker would be her favorite "Awful Dandy", a giant black and white cat, sound asleep. In another easy chair "Johnny-cake", a beautiful tiger and white cat would lazily open one eye to greet me. These I would pet as long as I wished while gazing in wonder at the old melodion and other treasures of Grandma's.

In one of the large chambers upstairs we could see initials scratched into the window pane. It was fun to try to imagine who used her diamond ring to scratch these initials and what names they represented. Where were these people from and where were they going?

At the Thanksgiving Day feast all the grandchildren sat at a table in the front hall with one of the aunts to keep order.

The other relatives all gathered around the large extension table in the old kitchen. We always wondered which aunt would be chosen to sit with us. Some were very lenient and much could be gotten away with, but some, especially my mother, maintained order and dignity at the table; fun and fooling around came afterwards, and not while Grandpa was asking the blessing, which seemed very funny to some of us.

For the Thanksgiving meal the ladies brought their specialties. Grandma always made her famous loaf or raised cake with its citron and raisins. She also made the Indian Pudding. Aunt Maude brought a mouth-watering butternut cake with thick chocolate frosting. Aunt Rachel made a rich pork or spice cake which always had a pink frosting, colored with cranberry juice. My mother, Aunt Winnie, made a white cake thick with butternuts and a lovely white frosting decorated with more butternuts. Aunt Alice brought the delicious rice pudding. Of course, we couldn't eat them all but we sampled as many as possible and snacked on them later.

After the meal we were allowed to play in the spacious attic, which ran the full length of the house and had the most entertaining old-fashioned toys and dolls. There was plenty of room to play almost any game up there and we always went home completely tired out from a wonderful, never-to-be-forgotten time.

Such are the fond memories of a happy childhood!

Attached to the house was a small ell or annex. It was the old store, painted red, with two twenty-four paned windows guarded by wooden shutters on the outside, held securely by diagonal bars of wrought iron which were released by a latch on the inside, a most effective guard against intrusion. In early days this was a general store with shelves which held calico, notions, groceries and the usual items found in a country store. The ori-

ginal heavy-built counter was still in place, as were the shelves. It had been many years since its use as a store, although Grandfather still did cut up on the counter sides of beef and other meats which he sold. Suspended from near the ceiling was the ancient wooden twine-reel where it has done duty for so many years.

This was a kind of gathering place for the "boys" to indulge in wrestling matches, arm wrestling, and discussions of the news of the day. The exciting events which led to the Civil War were pondered and its progress followed. Much enthusiasm was worked up which led to the enlistment of many patriots who gave their strength to the Union cause.

Before 1812 Montgomery was in Hampshire County, known as Hampshire South. Research on early roads disclosed a plan of a road laid out in May 1770 from Springfield to Worthington, in the Northeast corner of Murrayfield. A part of this road started out at the foot of the east side of the mountain at Elijah Egleston's, continued up to the Avery house, went past Chapman's Tavern, and across Moose-meadow Brook to a field at the top of the mountain (Crow Mountain), then to the King Place and into Murrayfield.

During this research we also found a warrant that was posted in the Chapman Tavern, the Fowler Tavern in Westfield, and the Southampton Clapp Tavern. The posting of these warrants was done by Montgomery's constable. To make sure that this posting was done correctly, the town asked the Collector of Taxes, Daniel Barrett, to make a special trip to each of these taverns to view the posting.

The following is a copy of one of these warrants: The proprietors of non-resident lands lying in the town of Montgomery are hereby notified that their lands were assessed in the State and Town taxes for the year 1801. The following sums (vow) in the division of ten acre lots.

	STATE	TOWN				
No.		1	6	7	7	Laid out to
73		1	6	7	7	Ebenezer Bush
80		1	6	7	7	Nat Ponder
84		1	6	7	7	Ben Laston
97		1	6	7	7	Neh Loomis
103		-	5	5	5	Capt. Ashley
104		1	6	7	7	Moses Root
108		1	6	7	7	Jacob Fowler
109		1	6	7	7	Stephen Nash
113		1	6	6	6	Joseph Sacket
116		1	6	7	7	John Shepard

So much of the above described lands will be sold at public vendue to the highest bidder at the dwelling house of Elisha Chapman, Innholder in said town on Monday, the 7th day of August next, at one o'clock in the afternoon as will pay said taxes with intervening charges unless prevented by a previous payment. Montgomery May 18th, 1801.

Daniel Barrett, Collector

Book 40-227
Springfield Registry

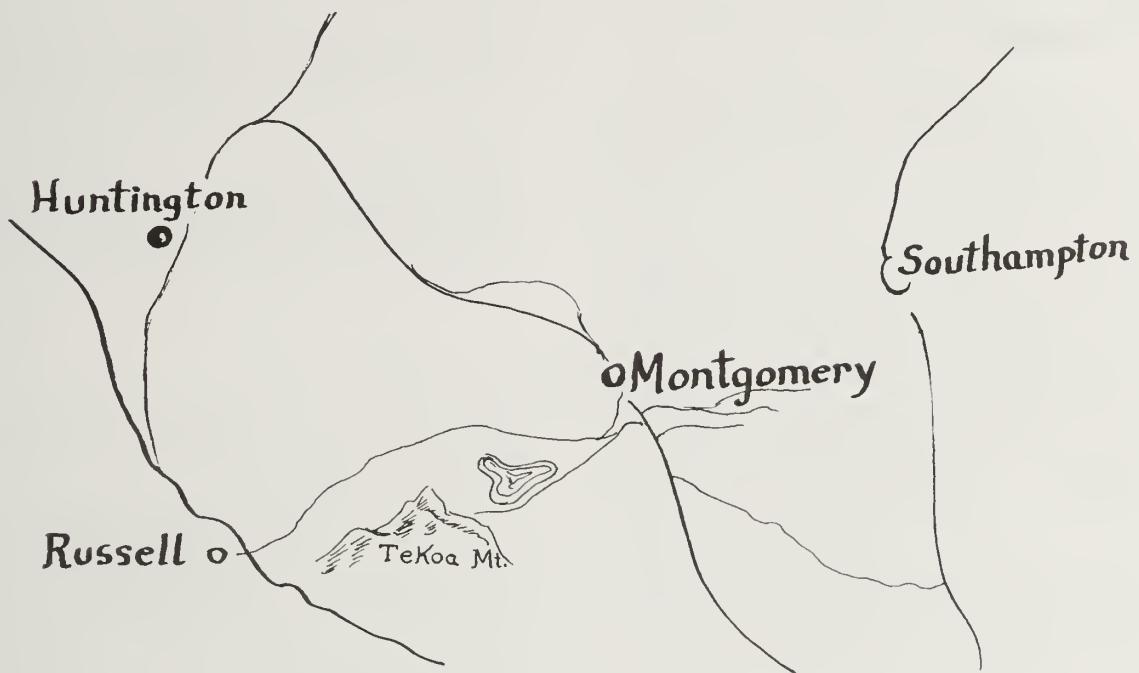
After the death of David L. Allyn in 1923 his wife was left with this large home and since she was not in the best of health and unable to carry on the place it was sold to the City of Westfield. A party from Long Island bought the store and it was dismantled and sent to Long Island to be reassembled.

The old Chapman Tavern has passed into history to live only in our memories.

Montgomery

**From HISTORY OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY (written 1879)*

Edited by Julie Pike



Natural Features

Geographical

Montgomery, one of the smallest towns in Hampden County, in respect to both size and population, occupies an area of 8657 acres in that mountainous tract which lies in the northwestern portion of the county where the Hampden Hills tower in their majestic beauty. Its boundaries are Huntington in Hampshire County on the north, Westfield and Russell on the south, Southampton and Westfield on the east, and Russell and Huntington on the west.

As already remarked, the surface of the town is interspersed with towering hills, among which Mount Tekoa and Mount Shatterack are the most conspicuous. Tekoa, which from the southeastern border overlooks Westfield, is a noble eminence, much frequented by tourists, by reason of the magnificent view of the surrounding country to be obtained from its summit. Minerals abound in the rock-crowned hills, but neither in value nor quantity invite the attention of the capitalist. Rich woodlands cover the surface

in profusion, and lend a varied and pleasing aspect to the natural beauty of the region. There are several useful mill-streams, such as Moose Meadow, Shatterack, Bear-Den, and Roaring Brook, but no large water-courses. In the southeast, the town of Westfield has constructed a reservoir covering an area of 36 acres, and thence obtains an abundant supply of pure water.

Early Settlement

A portion of the tract now occupied by Montgomery was originally included in that part of town of Westfield known as "The New Addition". The exact date of the earliest settlements in this quarter cannot be ascertained, but it is known that settlers located there as early as 1767, for in that year Ephraim Avery removed thither with his family and built the first frame house seen in that section.

There were other settlers contemporaneous with Avery, but of course they were few in number. These pioneers were, in addition to Avery: Capt. Sylvester Squier, Oliver Clark, David Allyn, Daniel Barrett, Aaron Parks, John Kagwin, Allen Pettis, and Joe Moore.

Noteworthy Incidents

Montgomery was incorporated in 1780, during the stormiest days of the Revolution, and one of the first public measures was one looking to the enlistment of men for the army. A bounty of 8 shillings per man was offered, and as to wages they were to be 4 pounds for the first month, and 3 pounds, 5 shillings for each month thereafter.

The patriotic impulses of the town ran high and strong throughout the struggle, and the energetic efforts put forth on behalf of the common cause are recorded in the volumes which contain the proceedings of town meetings from 1780 to close of the war.

In 1783, after the struggle was ended, it was resolved "to concur with the town of Boston respecting the return of refugees and traitors into this or any other of the United States, as we judge such measures conducive to the safety, interest, and quiet of these States."

The first town-meeting for the election of officers was held at the house of Zadock Bosworth, December 14, 1780.

Villages

There is near the centre of the town a small collection of dwellings, and there also are two churches, the town-hall, and a post-office. There is, however, neither a store nor a hotel in the town, and the small settlement at the centre, although vaguely referred to by the townspeople as the centre, is the nearest approach to a village to be found in Montgomery. Marketing is mainly done at Westfield, at the sacrifice sometimes of convenience, but as the town is too thinly populated to support a store the situation is philosophically borne. The traveler, therefore, through Montgomery misses the familiar sight of a rural village, but contents himself with unbroken view of expansive farms and neat farm-houses, which are, as a rule, tasteful in their appointments, and set amid picturesque surroundings.

Churches

Directly after the incorporation of the town, in November, 1780, the question of providing for public religious worship was earnestly discussed, but it was not until January, 1788 that the town first considered the advisability of erecting a house of worship. Finally, in 1797, a Congregational Church was built in the centre of the town, and in 1848, a new church building replaced the old one. By 1879, the church had been taken over by the Second Adventists for occasional services.

A Methodist Church was erected in 1849 at the town centre, opposite the First Church. (In later years, this became the town hall.)

Schools

Educational interests can scarcely be said to have flourished in the early days of Montgomery. The subject appears to have received no attention whatever until 1782, two years after the incorporation, and then only to show that public sentiment inclined to the belief that the promotion of public education must be deferred to a more convenient season, for the question of providing a school for the youth of the town coming up for consideration, it was voted that "no money be raised for the encouragement of a school." This spirit continued to prevail until 1786, when, the attention of the General Court being directed to this matter, the town was cited to appear at court and show cause why a school had not been kept during the previous year. After this a new departure was instituted and schools were set up to the gratification of the young and rising generation. There are at present (1879) five school districts, in each of which there is a flourishing school.

Burial Places

The burying-ground first laid out in the town is the one at the centre of the town, near the churches. It is a neatly-kept inclosure, but contains no headstones of very early date. Many of the earliest graves had no monuments, while others that were marked by tablets have been robbed by the ruthless hand of time.

Many old graves are found in family burying-grounds, of which the town contains several.

Industries

Montgomery is a strictly agricultural town, and it is upon the fruits of the soil that its inhabitants depend exclusively for support. Much valuable timber, such as oak, walnut, chestnut, beech, birch, maple, and hemlock, is found upon the woodlands, and furnishes ample supply for a brisk manufacture of lumber for both home demand and shipment to other points. The raising of stock and the production of butter and cheese may be regarded as the principal industrial interests, the growing of grain and other agricultural products receives some attention, but the yield does not extend beyond the limits of local consumption. There are 65 farms in the town, and among them are some upon which tobacco is successfully cultivated in a small way, while all of them are rich grazing-grounds.

The assessed value of the town in 1878 was \$160,000, on which the tax was \$2,333 (for state, county, and town), or a rate of \$14.56 per \$1000. The value of agricultural and domestic products in 1875 was \$54,334; that of manufacture, \$3,643.



STONE WALLS INDEX

Compiled by Donna Drew

At first it seemed a simple task to index the articles and authors appearing in the first five volumes of Stone Walls magazine. The issues contain only 40 pages, the type is large, there are lots of illustrations. But once the indexing was underway, it became apparent just how much material has been packed into these pages in five years. Topics have ranged from Astronomy and Axe-making to Wildflowers and Woolen Mills.

Since this index is intended to be used both as a research tool and as an incentive for readers to order back issues, it became necessary to make a few decisions regarding the categories used in making the listing.

Every article is listed by its major subject matter. Often, secondary topics within an article also are given a Subjects entry. Towns are indexed; villages are listed under the towns. Individuals and families are indexed, though in a couple of instances, such as the Crescent Mills article (W80:6) and the Granville, Ohio, story (Sp.78:28), only the prominent names are indexed. We just don't have enough space.

For that same reason, cross referencing is limited. If you are looking for a particular topic and don't find it, try looking under synonymous words.

While every Stone Walls issue but the first contained poetry, only a few are listed by subject here. All are mentioned under Authors and Poets however.

The Photographers and Artists section

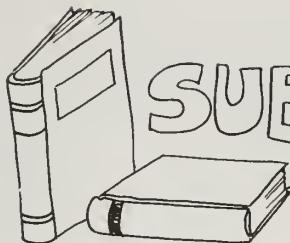
catalogs only new material, not historic pictures or drawings.

Finally, for economy and because of a slightly erratic publishing schedule and numbering in the early years (the fourth issue was erroneously published as Vol. 1 No. 3, rather than Vol. 2 No. 3), we have used the following chart in describing the first 17 Stone Walls issues in the index:

Vol. 1	W75
Vol. 2 No. 1	Sp76
Vol. 2 No. 2	Su76
Vol. 1 No. 3	F76
Vol. 2 No. 4	W76
Vol. 3 No. 1	Sp77
Vol. 3 No. 2	Su77
Vol. 3 No. 3	F77
Vol. 3 No. 4	W77
Vol. 4 No. 1	Sp78
Vol. 4 No. 2	Su78
Vol. 4 No. 3	F78
Vol. 4 No. 4	W79
Vol. 5 No. 1	Sp79
Vol. 5 No. 2	Su79
Vol. 5 No. 3	F79
Vol. 5 No. 4	W80

Index entries, then give an issue date (such as Su77, meaning Vol. 3 No. 2) followed by the number of the page on which the article begins. The actual reference may appear on a later page in the article.

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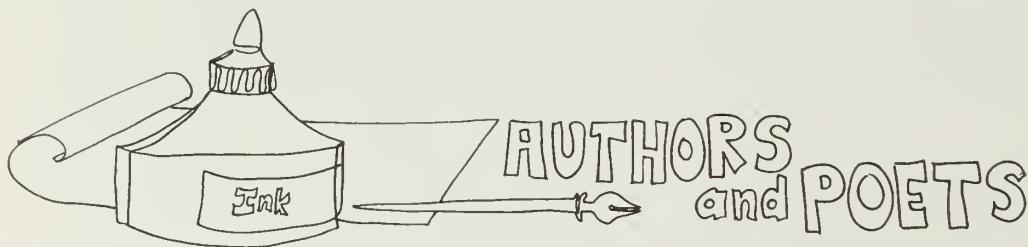
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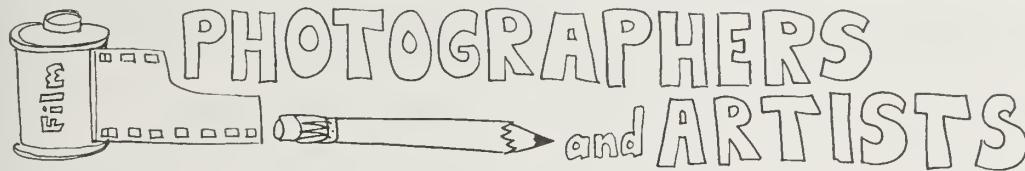
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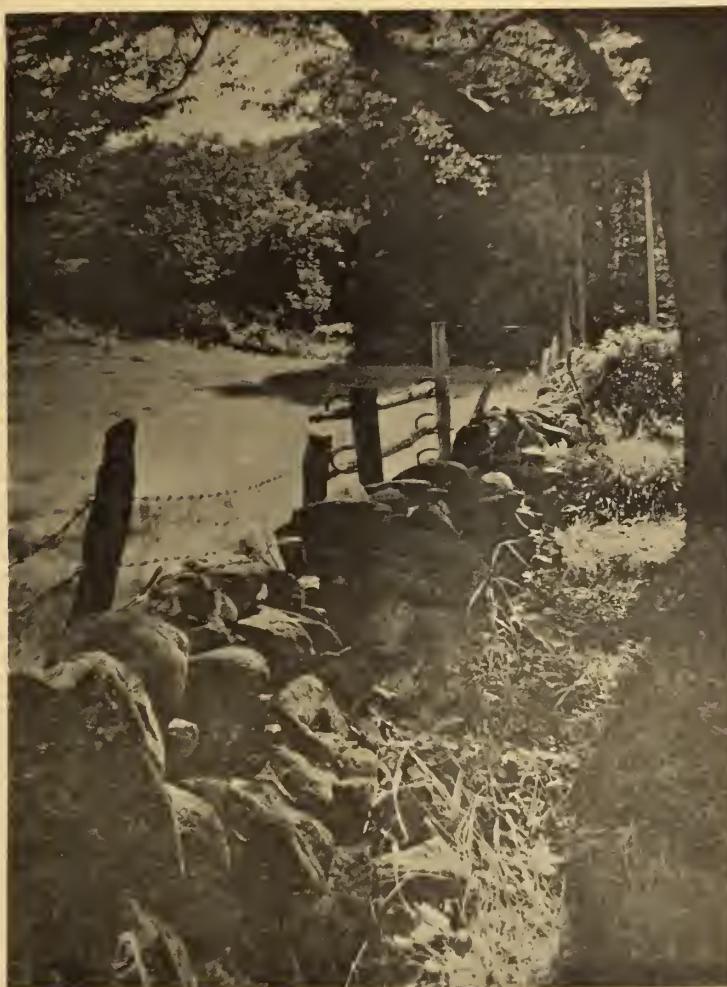
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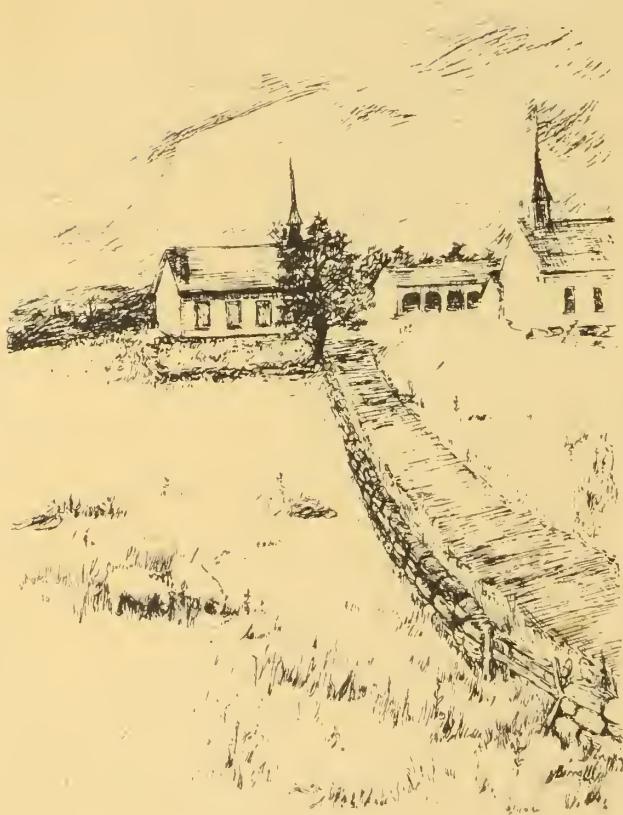
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